



NEWS CLIPS

Your "Voice" for Transportation!

Quote of the Week: "A gossip is one who talks to you about others; a bore is one who talks to you about himself; and a brilliant conversationalist is one who talks to you about yourself." - *Lisa Kirk*

MONDAY, 12/13/04

[TRAFFIC: One small step ...](#)

(12/13/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

The longest journey, to borrow a cliché, begins with a single step -- and that pretty much sums up progress on getting a badly needed replacement for the Mathews Bridge, which connects downtown Jacksonville to Arlington.

[Extension routes fuel heated debate](#)

(12/13/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

Planners are whittling down the potential routes for County Road 951's northern extension connecting Collier and Lee counties. While eastern paths unpopular with environmentalists have been removed, the western routes unpopular with residents are emerging as the likely alignment.

[Come fly over State Road 436](#)

(12/13/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

Brooke Nachman goes out of her way to avoid driving on State Road 436. But she cannot escape all of it. She works along the jam-packed highway, at one of its busiest intersections. "There's just way too much traffic," said Nachman, who takes other roads most of the way to her job at Steak and Ale at State Road 50.

[A tale of fair dealing](#)

(12/13/2004 © Panama City News Herald)

This is the story of the "Amtrak 21." It's a dramatic tale involving political intrigue and, according to some, near-violence between two congressmen. And it comes with a strong message for liberals and moderates: They, more than anyone else, need to get the federal government off their backs.

[Airport plans keep their lift](#)

(12/13/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

CLEARWATER - It's hardly the best time to talk about expanding St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport, considering the two largest airlines offering commercial service at the airport are in financial jeopardy. Yet Pinellas County commissioners intend to do just that Tuesday when they take up a strategic master plan that proposes spending \$223-million at the airport.

[DOT Takes Gandy Plan Public](#)

(12/13/2004 © Tampa Tribune)

TAMPA - After years of talk about overhead highways, underground tunnels and bypasses through neighborhoods, residents get another chance Tuesday to weigh in on the proposed \$20 million overhaul of Gandy Boulevard.

TUESDAY, 12/14/04

[Seek Surcharge To Fund Transit](#)

(12/14/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

There's little choice but to ask the Legislature to approve a license tag surcharge to fund expanded mass transit for South Florida. There simply is no other way to quickly put the region in position to qualify for the federal funding it needs to make its ambitious expansion plans financially feasible.

[Session planned to discuss LPGA extension](#)

(12/14/2004 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

PORT ORANGE -- Residents can learn how and where LPGA Boulevard may be extended south of International Speedway Boulevard at a public information session Thursday. The extension to Tomoka Farms Road, along with other regional projects, creates a local roadway alternative west of Interstate 95 between Ormond Beach and New Smyrna Beach, transportation officials said.

[Commission OKs Scripps plan](#)

(12/14/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

With little fanfare, Palm Beach County commissioners cleared the way for a key state approval needed before construction begins on the Scripps Florida biotech project. Commissioners Monday passed the county's capital improvement plan, which includes the road projects needed to accommodate Scripps and the research park expected to sprout up around it.

[High-Tech Roads Forecasting System Ready](#)

(12/14/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

DES MOINES, Iowa -- A new high-tech computer system that provides pinpoint weather forecasts for specific stretches of highway, tested in Iowa over the past two winters, is attracting interest from transportation officials worldwide.

[FDOT plans to advance I-75 widening project](#)

(12/14/2004 © Naples Daily News)

The news this week is good for motorists traveling Interstate 75 in Collier County, or at least for those who will be driving the road in 2007. The state transportation department's newly proposed budget for Collier shows the widening to six lanes of that stretch of I-75 taking place beginning in 2009, and officials are already planning to advance it to 2007.

[Aviation Expo plans landing in Charlotte in January](#)

(12/14/2004 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune)

Charlotte County's fifth annual Florida Aviation Expo will be held at the Charlotte County Airport Jan. 21-23. The expo is not an airshow, but rather a free, lesser-known-and-

distant cousin that combines fun, education and some serious general aviation business.

[Martin might add tax to fund public buses](#)

(12/14/2004 © Stuart News)

STUART — Martin County property owners might have to pick up the fare — as much as \$6.60 per resident in the next fiscal year — to keep public buses rolling. The county must cover a shortfall for Community Coach, a deficit created last year when the federal government reduced transit funding to the county by merging Martin and St. Lucie counties into a single transit region.

WEDNESDAY, 12/15/04

[High-speed railers just won't go away](#)

(12/15/2004 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

Call it the boondoggle that wouldn't die. The Florida High Speed Rail Authority, opposed by the governor, rebuffed by the voters and practically ordered to disband, just keeps chugging along.

[Residents oppose runway extension](#)

(12/15/2004 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

ORMOND BEACH -- Some city officials see adding 1,450 feet to a runway at the municipal airport as a surefire way to attract new businesses, create dozens of jobs and generate millions of dollars in economic benefits for the city. But hundreds of people who live in neighborhoods ringing the airport not only don't buy the economic promises, they're afraid the proposed runway extension would subject them to a huge increase in plane noise and drag down their home values.

[Editorial: Interstate 75](#)

(12/15/2004 © Naples Daily News)

When you look back at the big news stories of 2004, you probably won't see this one on Top 10 lists. But you should. Pushing up the widening of Interstate 75 from four lanes to six is what we have been hoping for.

[Florida's mean streets](#)

(12/15/2004 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune)

Traffic flow and pedestrian safety aren't mutually exclusive. Quit blaming it on the weather. Or older drivers. Or people staggering out of bars. Florida has a serious problem with pedestrian safety, and the state lacks an adequate strategy for dealing with the continuing loss of life.

[Despite protests, commission advances airport plan](#)

(12/15/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

CLEARWATER - After delaying for more than a year, Pinellas County commissioners moved ahead Tuesday with a controversial airport master plan that calls for investing up to \$223-million at St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport over the next 25 years.

[Residents lukewarm to plans for Gandy](#)

(12/15/2004 © St. Petersburg Times)

TAMPA - A proposal to replace center turn lanes with 30-foot-wide landscaped medians has turned many local residents against plans to overhaul Gandy Boulevard.

THURSDAY, 12/16/04

[Holiday traveler outlook: no gifts](#)

(12/16/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

MANATEE - Expect airports and roads to be even more crowded than usual this holiday season. That's the word from AAA, which predicted Wednesday that a record number of Americans and Floridians will travel during the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

[Orange cones ahead for north I-95](#)

(12/16/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

Never-ending construction on Interstate 95 has enlarged the highway from the Georgia line to St. Augustine, but one stretch in north Jacksonville has been stuck in the past, untouched by the tread of bulldozers and cement trucks. That part of I-95 is about to get its turn.

[FCC votes to allow high-speed Web access on flights](#)

(12/16/2004 © Miami Herald)

Airline travelers could be browsing the Internet and reading e-mail routinely by high-speed Internet connections to their laptop computers in one to two years thanks to a decision Wednesday from federal regulators. Passengers might eventually be allowed to make cell phone calls, too.

[State officials unveil plans for proposed Sumter road projects](#)

(12/16/2004 © Ocala Star Banner)

BUSHNELL — Sumter County's five-year road improvement list, which includes four-laning U.S. 301 from Wildwood to the Marion County line, was unveiled by state officials on Tuesday. David Marsh, Sumter County liaison with Florida Department of Transportation, shared the proposed projects with the County Commission.

[Martin, St. Lucie bodies seek solution for traffic woes](#)

(12/16/2004 © Palm Beach Post)

FORT PIERCE — Road planners in Martin and St. Lucie counties agreed Wednesday to pay a consultant \$1.1 million to figure out how to stave off the traffic nightmare projected in the region during the next 25 years.

[Pensacola Regional Airport back on track after hurricane](#)

(12/16/2004 © Pensacola News Journal)

Pensacola Regional Airport back on track after hurricane Pensacola Regional Airport is back to its pre-Hurricane Ivan trend of steadily increasing traffic. Airport marketing director Belinda Zephir reported the total passengers through the airport were up 9 percent in November compared to the same month last year.

FRIDAY, 12/17/04

[Project to accelerate truck processing](#)

(12/17/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

PALMETTO - Port Manatee and the Florida Department of Transportation are splitting the cost of constructing a \$5.5 million truck queuing terminal at the port. The truck queue will work somewhat like the multi-lane drive-through at a bank.

[Interchange agreement draws closer](#)

(12/17/2004 © Daily Commercial)

BUSHNELL The Villages inched ever closer Tuesday to agreements bringing about the construction of interchanges at Florida's Turnpike and Interstate 75 in Sumter County.

[DOT has new plan to demolish bridge](#)

(12/17/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

The fate of the old Fuller Warren Bridge in downtown Jacksonville will be up for debate Jan. 6 when a new plan for removing the partly demolished span is discussed at a public meeting. Except for cutting down the metal drawbridge, demolition has been at a standstill since February 2002 because the contractor was dumping tons of concrete rubble into the St. Johns River without a permit.

[Newark Airport screeners lose fake bomb](#)

(12/17/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

NEWARK, N.J. -- Baggage screeners at Newark Liberty International Airport spotted -- and then lost -- a fake bomb planted in luggage by a supervisor during a training exercise. Despite an hours-long search Tuesday night, the bag, containing a fake bomb complete with wires, a detonator and a clock, made it onto an Amsterdam-bound flight.

[Scripps road plan rankles officials](#)

(12/17/2004 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel)

Two Palm Beach County commissioners were incensed at Commissioner Karen Marcus after a board that oversees traffic planning voted to change the design of a stretch of the road that will deliver drivers into the heart of the Scripps Florida campus.

[Congress keeps Southern barges afloat](#)

(12/17/2004 © Panama City News Herald)

WASHINGTON Barges will stay afloat on a handful of seldom-used Southern waterways after Congress rejected the Bush administration's cost-cutting efforts and awarded \$90 million for dredging and upkeep on the region's rivers.